

AMENDMENT

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-15. (Canceled)

16. (Currently amended) A method of inducing an antigenic response in a subject which comprises administering to the subject a purified polypeptide ~~consisting of~~ comprising SEQ ID NO:9.

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is administered in the form of a host cell that expresses the polypeptide.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the host cell is a bacterial strain.

19. (Previously presented) The method of claim 18, wherein the bacterial strain is attenuated or the bacterial strain is killed after the polypeptide is expressed.

20. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is administered to the subject in the form of a food or a drink.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, wherein the drink is a carbonated beverage.

22. (Previously presented) The method of claim 16, wherein the polypeptide is orally administered.

23-31. (Canceled)

32. (New) The method of claim 16, wherein the purified polypeptide consists of SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:5.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is administered in the form of a host cell that expresses the polypeptide.
34. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the host cell is a bacterial strain.
35. (New) The method of claim 34, wherein the bacterial strain is attenuated or the bacterial strain is killed after the polypeptide is expressed.
36. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is administered to the subject in the form of a food or a drink.
37. (New) The method of claim 36, wherein the drink is a carbonated beverage.
38. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein the polypeptide is orally administered.
39. (New) A purified polypeptide comprising SEQ ID NO:9.
40. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 39 encoded by SEQ ID NO:4.
41. (New) The purified polypeptide of claim 39 consisting of SEQ ID NO:9 or SEQ ID NO:5.
42. (New) An antigenic composition comprising the polypeptide of claim 39.
43. (New) The antigenic composition of claim 42 and further comprising at least one purified C_{ss}B protein.